

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (original) A vehicle-borne system for countering an incoming threat, the system comprising:
 - a sensing device configured to sense an incoming threat; and
 - an active protection system including a maneuverable interceptor incorporating a plurality of kinetic energy rods and an aimable explosive charge configured to deploy the kinetic energy rods in a predetermined direction; said active protection system further including a detection subsystem configured to maneuver the interceptor to intercept the incoming threat, said detection subsystem further configured to determine if the interceptor will miss the threat, and then initiate said explosive charge to aim the kinetic energy rods into a disbursed cloud in the trajectory path of the incoming threat and between the incoming threat and the vehicle.
2. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the incoming threat is chosen from the group consisting of: a kinetic energy round munition, a shaped charged round, a heat round, a missile, an artillery, and a stabilized rod.
3. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said vehicle is a tank.
4. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said vehicle is an armored personnel carrier.

5. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said interceptor includes a warhead section with a plurality of bays for holding said plurality of kinetic energy rods.

6. (original) The system of claim 5 in which said bays are orientated such that said kinetic energy rods are deployed in different predetermined directions for creating said disbursed cloud.

7. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said detection subsystem includes a radar module for determining if the interceptor will hit or miss the incoming threat.

8. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said detection subsystem includes a control unit for initiating said explosive charge.

9. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said kinetic energy rods are made of high density tantalum.

10. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said kinetic energy rods have a ductile composition for preventing shattering thereof upon impact with the incoming threat.

11. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said rods are hexagon shaped.

12. (original) The warhead of claim 1 in which the kinetic energy rods have a

cylindrical cross section.

13. (original) The warhead of claim 1 in which the kinetic energy rods have a non-cylindrical cross section.

14. (original) The warhead of claim 1 in which the kinetic energy rods have a star-shaped cross section.

15. (original) The warhead of claim 1 in which the kinetic energy rods have a cruciform cross section.

16. (original) The warhead of claim 1 in which the kinetic energy rods are disk shaped with flat ends.

17. (original) The warhead of claim 1 in which the kinetic energy rods have a non-flat nose.

18. (original) The warhead of claim 1 in which the kinetic energy rods have a pointed nose.

19. (original) The warhead of claim 1 in which the kinetic energy rods have a wedge-shaped nose.

20. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said explosive charge is shaped such that detonation of said charge deploys said plurality of kinetic energy rods in a predetermined direction to form said disbursed cloud.

21. (original) The system of claim 1 in which said vehicle is a tank chosen from the group consisting of a BMP-3 tank, a T-80MBT tank, a BMP-3 ICV tank, an ARENA APS tank, and a T-80UM2 tank.

22. (original) A vehicle-borne incoming threat countering method, the method comprising:

sensing an incoming threat;

activating an active protection system including a maneuverable interceptor incorporating a plurality of kinetic energy rods and an aimable explosive charge configured to deploy the kinetic energy rods in a predetermined direction;

maneuvering the interceptor to intercept the incoming threat;

detecting whether the interceptor will miss the incoming threat; and

if the interceptor will miss the incoming threat, then initiating the explosive charge to aim the kinetic energy rods into a disbursed cloud in the trajectory path of the incoming threat and between the incoming threat and the vehicle.

23. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which the incoming threat is chosen from the group consisting of a kinetic energy round munition, a shaped charge round, a heat round, a missile, an artillery, and a stabilized rod.

24. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said vehicle is a tank.
25. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said vehicle is an armored personnel carrier.
26. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said interceptor includes a warhead section with a plurality of bays for holding said plurality of kinetic energy rods.
27. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 26 in which said bays are orientated such that said kinetic energy rods are deployed in different predetermined directions for creating said disbursed cloud.
28. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said ~~detection subsystem detecting~~ includes a radar module for determining if the interceptor will hit or miss the incoming threat.
29. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said ~~detection subsystem detecting~~ includes a fuze control unit for initiating said explosive charge.
30. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said kinetic

energy rods are made of tantalum.

31. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said rods are hexagon shaped.

32. (currently amended) The ~~warhead~~ method of claim 22 in which the kinetic energy rods have a cylindrical cross section.

33. (currently amended) The ~~warhead~~ method of claim 22 in which the kinetic energy rods have a non-cylindrical cross section.

34. (currently amended) The ~~warhead~~ method of claim 22 in which the kinetic energy rods have a star-shaped cross section.

35. (currently amended) The ~~warhead~~ method of claim 22 in which the kinetic energy rods have a cruciform cross section.

36. (currently amended) The ~~warhead~~ method of claim 22 in which the kinetic energy rods have flat ends.

37. (currently amended) The ~~warhead~~ method of claim 22 in which the kinetic energy rods are disk shaped.

38. (currently amended) The ~~warhead~~ method of claim 22 in which the kinetic energy rods have a non-flat nose.

39. (currently amended) The ~~warhead~~ method of claim 22 in which the kinetic energy rods have a pointed nose.

40. (currently amended) The ~~warhead~~ method of claim 22 in which the kinetic energy rods have a wedge-shaped nose.

41. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said kinetic energy rods have a ductile composition for preventing shattering thereof.

42. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said explosive charge is shaped such that detonation of said charge deploys said plurality of kinetic energy rods in a predetermined direction to form said disbursed cloud.

43. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 22 in which said vehicle is a tank chosen from the group consisting of a BMP-3 tank, a T-80MBT tank, a BMP-3 ICV tank, an ARENA APS tank, and a T-80UM2 tank.